SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That is why I told you that there should be one standard all over India, whether it is Western India or Central India. There should be one standard for the land-loser. This is what I have demanded.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please keep it in mind.

[w]644. [The Questioner (Shri Hanumantha Rao) was absent. For Answer Vide Col.. . infra] .

*645. [The (Questioner (Shri Suresh Kalmadi) was abient. For Answer Vide col... infra].

National Commission of child labourers

*646. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have for mulated the National Commission on Child in the interest of the child labou rers working in the various private fac tories/industries in the country;

(b) if not. the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the progress made in reducing the number of child labourers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There is no proposal to set up a National Commission on Child Labour.

(b) and (c) Government have already taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. A comprehensive law, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. As per the National Child Labour Policy, 1987 Child Labour is being tackled through (a) Legislation (b) General Development progiammes for benefit of children and (c) through implementation of National Child Labour Projects. In September, 1994, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour was constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour.

In addition, to safeguard the interest of children, there are protective provisions in various labour laws as well, such as the Factories Act, 1948. the Mines Act, 1952, the motor Transport (Workers) Act, 1961 etc. The approach of the Government is to implement all the child related provisions of the laws in a harmon-ous fashion. Enforcement machinery at the Central and State levels exist to enforce the provisions of these Acts. Emloyers are liable to be prosecuted for violations of the provisions of the Acts. Enforcement personnel are being given special training for better enforcement of these laws. The Human Rights Commission also looks into problems of Child Labour. As such, it is felt that there is no need to set up a National Commission on child Labour.

(d) and (e) Under the National Child Labour Projects scheme of the Ministry of Labour, presently 12 projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 14,000 children. India is also a parti cipant in the International Labour Organisation's, International pro- gramme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). There are 89 IPEC programmes in 13 States covering approximately 53,000 children.

The Natinoal Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has also adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central

and State Governments at the implenenting level—the District—to effec tively handle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. This plan of action has been sent to all States/ UTs for adoption.

Government is presently engaged in the task of eliminating child labour in hazardous occupations which is estimated at 20 lakhs. The planning Commission has already earmarked Rs. 34.4 crores for the Purpose dur ing the current year. The year 2000 is the target for the elimination of child labour in hazardous occupa tions.

श्री इकबाल सिंह : महोदया, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इन्होंने चाइल्ड लेबर के बारे में पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में स्टेट-वाइज सर्वे कराया है कि किस स्टेट में कितनी संख्या में चाइल्ड लेबर कार्य करती है जो कि छोटे बच्चे हैं, 14 साल से छोटे हैं? अगर काम कर रहे हैं तो क्या इन्होंने जो जो उनके लिए कानून बनाए हैं, उससे इन्हें कोई कामयाबी प्राप्त हुई है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं ?

SHRI P. A. SANGAMA: Madam, there is no separate survey conducted for this purpose. We go by the figures of the census. The latest available census figures are of 1981 Census because the 1991 Census figures have not been released so 'far. According to latest estimates total number of child labour in our country is 17 million. There are two categories of child labour, one of those who are working in hazardous industries like those who are concentrated in glass industry, bangles industry, carpet industry, match-box and fireworks, diamond polishing and gem polishing. These are the areas where the child labour is concentrated, but the maximum number is in the agricultural sector.

श्री इकबाल सिंह : उपसभापति महोदया, इन्होंने अभी कहा कि देश में 17 मिलियन बच्चे हैं जो काम करते हैं लेकिन जो इंटरनेशनल लेबर आर्गेनाइजेशन है, उसके आंकड़े के अनुसार पूरी दुनिया में 10 करोड़ों के करीब चाइल्ड लेबरर है और भारत वर्ष में 5 करोड़ बच्चे काम करते हैं। मैंने पहले भी यह पूछा था कि क्या आपने कोई सर्वे कराया है कि कितनी गिनती है। इंटरनेशनल लेबर आर्गेनाइजेशन के अनुसार भारत में इनकी संख्या 5 करोड़ है लेकिन इन्होंने 17 मिलियन कहा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इंटरनेशनल लेबर आर्गेनाइजेशन की तरफ से तीन साल से धन आया है उस धन से इन्होंने क्या क्या कल्याणकारी काम किया है ताकि हम चाइल्ड लेबर को समाप्त कर सकें ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: There are various estimates which have been made by different organisations. But, the numbers differ from, the survey to the other conducted by different organisations, including the 1LO. As far as we are concerned, we go by the census figures-

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What about the funds which came in? He is asking about the international 'funds which have come for the development or children and how they have been utilised? Is it under your Ministry or some other Ministry?

SHRI P. A, SANGMA: Yes, Madam it is under us. We have two interna tionally-funded programmes, bord are of ILO. One is the most importan programme, the IPECL, the Interna tional Programme for Elimination of Child Labour. I have already men tioned in my answer that 89 project are on in the country covering onl 50,000 workers. In a country where the number of child labour is 1 million, children working in hazarc ous industries are 2 million, this pro gramme for only 50,000 is just noth ing. We are not depending on an international funding. We have a cepted this just as a token money

We have accepted international assistance only to associate ourselves in an attempt to eliminate child-labour world-wide. We have the money with us and as the hon. Member may remember, on the 15th August, the Prime Minister announced that Rs-850 crores would be made available for this purpose- For this year, a sum of Rs. 34 crores have been already earmarked.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam Deputy-Chairman, the Ihon. Minister has visited most of the industries— bangle industry, diamond cutting industry, matches industry and various other industries where child labour is employed in large number. There we find that the private industries, employing the child-labour, are not providing them the amenities like education, facilities for working at odd hours, health and other things. They have been totally ignored by the industrialists.

In the Labour Ministers' Conference, including the child-labour, presided over by him, the hon. Minister gave guidelines to the State Government for implementation of the enactments which are for protection of the child-labour. But, to my surprise, they have not been implemented in right earnest by most of the State Governments. As a monitoring agency, it is the duty of the Labour Minister to see that at least the children who are employed in these industries are given minimum protection education, health and other things. On that score there is a total negligence on the part of the State Governments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to implement in right spirit the decision taken in the Labour Ministers' Conference to protect the child labour in this country.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, the policy of the Government is very clear. There are two categories of children working. One in hazardous industries. As far as children warning in hazardous industries are concerned, there is no question of any regulation or facilities being given to them because child labour has to be abolished. It has to be completely prohibited. We are not able to it right now because the number is 2 million. We have to create an infratructure like establishment of special schools, boarding houses and also identification of parents of child labour so that we are able to give them employment to compensate the family earning. So, Child labour elimination process is on and I would not agree with the hon. Member regarding the role being played by the State Governments. I am happy to inform the House that the State Governments are very serious.. (*Inrr uptions)*.. .

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the State Governments.. *(Interterruptions)*.. .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, I am not allowing. I do not want a dialogue... *(Interruptions).* ...Let him complete. You have asked him a question, let him complete. If you are not satisfied, then I am there to protect you. Let him speak.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, he is protecting the role that is being played by the State Governments.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to protect him also.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I need protection for the Minister and myself also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can I protect you when he is on his legs?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : But, the question is... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUPTY CHAIRMAN: It is his right to answer... (Interruptions) ..I have to protect his right also.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, this is a problem which cannot be solved by the Central Government alone. In fact, even if the Central Government and the State Governments combine together, it will not be possible to solve this problem overnight. We have to get the involvement of the people as such, particularly the non-governmental organisations . . . *(Interruption:*).. .

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Socities also.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Yes, societies also. So. I am glad to say that awareness has come. There is a response even from the trade unions. The trade unions have fixed targets for themselves for elimination of child labour. The INTUC has fixed a target, the PHC Chamber has fixed a target for itself. So, everybody is being involved. That is why I am quite confident that by 2000 AD, as far as our target of rescuing two million children and putting them in their proper places is concerned I am hopeful of achieving it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has asked about the Slate Governments.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: About the monitoring agency of the Central Government. I am asking the Central Labour Minister to protect child labour from hazardous and other industries where children arc being employed. In these industries, the norms regulating' child labour are being violated.. . *(Interruptions)*.. .

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, as I have answered, The National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has been framed. After it has been formed, we have taken meetings region-wise on this issue. We had a meeting at Bhuba neswar for the Eastern and the North-East Regions. We had a meeting in Rajasthan for the Northern region. We had a meeting for the Southern; region at Trivandarum. One more meeting is to be held in Goa for the Western region. In all these meetings, we have unanimously resolved that similar to the National Authority for Elimination of Chid Labour at the Centre, we will form snch Authorities at the State level aiso, with t:e Chief Secretary as its chairman. Some of the State Governments hive already formed these. As far as monitoring is concerned, it will be done by the Central Government because the money is going from the Central Government. But the nodal agency for monitoring of this will be the Collector, who will be dealing with this problem at the district level. In fact, we are already planing to have a conference of the selected Collectors in the country, We have already written to the State Governments where there is concentration of child labour. Therefore, there is involvement of the State Governments even at the level of the Collector. That is why we are meeting all the Collectors.

श्री राम रतन राम : मैडम चेयरपरसन, बाल श्रमिक दो तरह के होते हैं । एक जो दूसरे के घरों में काम करते हैं, दूसरे वे जो अपने घरों पर काम करते हैं। जो दूसरे के घरों में नहीं बल्कि अपने घरों में काम करते हैं वे वही काम करते हैं, वे उसी प्रकार का हैजारडस वर्क करते हैं जो दूसरे के घरों पर बच्चे काम करते हैं – चाहे वह फरीदाबाद में ग्लास वर्क हो, चाहे भदोही में वह कारपेट वर्क हो, चाहे शिवकाशी का मैच वर्क हो, या अन्य स्थानों पर हो अगर घर में कोई भी काम होता है, तो बच्चा उस काम में जरूर शरीक रहता है और उसी तरह के हैजारड्स उसको होते हैं, तो ऐसे बालकों के बारे में जो भी आपने गणना दी है, जो भी आपने प्रोटेक्शन दिया है, वह उन बच्चों के लिए दिया है, जो बाहर काम करते हैं। लेकिन जो घर में काम करते हैं, उनके प्रोटेक्शन के बारे में सरकार की क्या नीति है? सरकार उनके बारे में क्या कर रही है और ऐसे बच्चों, बाल श्रमिकों की संख्या कितनी है, इस बारे में सरकार बताए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, the policy of the Government of India is to eliminate child labour in all areas, yes, in all the areas. But, we realise that it cannot be done overnight. Therefore, we want to tackle the problem of those

who are working in factories, in hazardous industries first. We have to tackle child labour in hazardous industries first. After we have tackled this section, then we have to plan for other sections because the number is such that we cannot do in a day or one year or two years.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: What is your target?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : We are hearing the same reply for the last five years.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, I am hearing the same questions for the last many years.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Your reply is the same, you have not changed your reply. That is what I am telling.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : मैडम, मेरा भी है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You are in the queue, please wait.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : उपसभापति महोदया, आये दिन रोज हम अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं कि चाइल्ड लेबर को खत्म करने की दिशा में सरकार तरह-तरह के प्रयास कर रही है और नेशनल अथारिटी भी चाइल्ड लेबर को खत्म करने के लिये सितम्बर 1994 में बनाई है और इम्प्लीमेन्टेशन आफ एक्ट के लिए स्पेशल ट्रेनिंग भी आपने दी है, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि जो चाइल्ड लेबर के वायलेटर्स हैं, जो एम्प्लायर हैं, जो कि एक्ट इस को वायलेट करते हैं, ऐसे कितने केसेज आपने अभी पिछले दो साल में पकड़े हैं, कितनों को प्रासीक्यूट किया है और चाइल्ड लेबर से जो बच्चों को छुड़ाया जाता है, उनके पुर्नवास के लिए क्या योजनायें हैं ? उनके पुर्नवास के लिए देखा गया है कि सिर्फ साढ़े 6 हजार दे दिया जाता है और उसके बाद हमारा विभाग छुट्टी पा लेता है, तो उनके लिए क्या प्रोग्राम है और आर्थिक स्थिति के कारण ही बच्चे फैक्ट्रियों में या घरों में काम करने जाते हैं, तो उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति सुधारने के लिए आपकी योजनायें है, लेकिन यदि महिलाओं को या मांओं को ज्यादा नौकरियों में रखें तो चाइल्ड लेबर कम करने की दिशा में पहल हो सकती है, इस पर क्या मंत्री जी ने विचार किया है?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, child labour is prevailing in our country mainly due to economic problems. We have decided that if we have to tackle this problem in the right perspective it is not enough to identify the children who are working, but it is equally important to identify the parents also. Therefore, the process of identification of parents is on. In fact, the Ministry of Rural Development is doing this job. We are, in fact, computerising because we want to give alternative employment to the parents so that they will be willing to send their children to the school. This is very important. As far as the inspections, violations and prosecutions are concerned, I have the figures furnished by different State Governments and we have compiled it together. I thing, so far, the number of inspections made is 16,862 where they have found that the cases of violations are 1,814 and the cases of prosecutions are 1,308. And so far, the conviction has been only in 264 cases.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : मैडम, यह सवाल इतना फंसा हुआ है कि मां-बाप तो अपने बच्चों को काम पर भेजते हैं और हम लोग दिल्ली में बैठ करके यह कहते हैं कि बच्चों से काम नहीं लिया जाएगा और नहीं होने दिया जाएगा और इसके लिए विधान है । संविधान की धारा 24 बोलती है कि बाल श्रमिकों का इस्तेमाल नहीं होगा, मनाही है, उसके बावजूद इस्तेमाल होता है । सवाल यह है मैडम, कि इस चर्चा के चलते हिन्दुस्तान बदनाम हो रहा है, इसके कई उद्योग बदनाम हो रहे हैं, खास तौर पर से कालीन उद्योग और हिन्दुस्तान में एक रगमार फाइउन्डेशन है, जिसको जर्मन नागरिक चलाता है । उसका कालीन निर्यात करने का धंधा है । उसको यह अधिकार दिया गया है कि हिन्दुस्तान का कौन सा कालीन विदेश जाएगा । अगर वह यह सर्टिफिकेट दे दे कि इसमें

चाइल्ड लेबर का इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ है तभी दे सकता है । जर्मन नागरिक इस तरह का सर्टिफिकेट हिन्दुस्तानी कम्पनियों को देने लगे तो हिन्दुस्तान का कालीन उद्योग बिल्कुल चौपट हो जाएगा। यह खतरनाक स्थिति इस चर्चा के चलते हो रही है कि मां-बाप तो बच्चे को काम पर भेजना चाहते हैं और सरकार और विधान कहता है कि इससे काम नहीं लिया जाएगा, इससे भारत के उद्योग खास तौर पर ये कालीन उद्योग और हीरा उद्योग, ये दोनों खतरे में पड़े हैं, सरकार से मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि उसकी नीति क्या है ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, the policy of the Government of India is very lear on this. We have opposed any attempt to link labour standards with international trade. In fact, it is not only the stand of the Government of India. It is the stand of the other non-;Uigned countries also; it is the stand of the other developing countries also. Last January, when the Labour Ministers of the non-aligned and developing countries met in New Delhi, in our Programme of Action, we had said that this attempt or this move by the developed countries to link labour standards with international trade would be opposed in every fora. We are very clear about it.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: What about my question in regard to the Ragmark Foundation? It is said that they have to give a certificate whether child labour is used or not.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: There are two issues. One is in regard tothe move to linik labour standards with international trade. For example, in the W.T.O., it is sought to be raised. In that regavd, I have said what our stand is.

As far as bilateral trade is con cerned, trade between India and another country, I do not have an) information about that. It is being dealt with by the Ministry of Commerce. In regard to bilateral trade between individual countries.... *(Interruptions)* .

SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: I know this concerns Mr. Chidambaram.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, Mr. Misra referred to some organisation, some foreign organisation, called the Ragmark Foundation. He says that they have to certify that no child labour is involved in the weaving of carpets. It is also reported that there: is going to be a legislation in the U.S. Senate in regard to import *of* carpets. I do not know whether it is already there.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, as far as my information goes, no country has officially taken this position; not even Germany.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: I referred to a German company.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: It is a company. But as far as my information goes, no Government has taken this position. I am subject to correction.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The question is whether Germany has taken this position. You please verify that.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I am aware. You are referring to the statement made recently by the German Minister who visited India. I know it. I know very well. I had a very long discussion with him. He also had a very long discussion with the Minister of Textles. He spoke something here and, after going there, he spoke something. I have seen. You are referring to that. Here, I am talking about the official position taken by individual countries. I am not personally aware. The Ministry of Commerce would be in a better position to say about that.

श्री पी० ए० संगमा : सभापति महोदया, मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि चाइल्ड लेबर कानूनों को लागू करवाने के लिए "एनफोर्समेंट पर्सनेल" को प्रशिक्षण देने के अलावा और कौन से स्पेसिफिक कदम सरकार ने उठाए हैं ताकि चाइल्ड लेबर कानून इफेक्टिव तरीके से लागू किए जा सकें और उन कदमों का क्या परिणाम निकला है ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, I have already listed out the. various steps being taken by the Government. But no; it is not through these steps that we are going to solve the problem. I think it is just one particular step which, ultimately, is going to solve the problem. That is education. The children would have to be educated. This is what we are saying. In fact, according to me, only one step, only one programme, is needed; that is. the children would have to go to the schools and not to the factories. That is why wo have taken a little time. As T said earlier, we are preparing to establish about 15,000 hools. This is the requirement. We are not sure whether we are going to open these schools now. That is why I have called a conference of Collectors. We want to find out whether we would he able to use the existing institutions or, whether we would be required to supplement the existing institutions- The picture would emerge only after this conference. I have called a meeting of Collectors. As T said, the important programme is education.

नई तकनीक द्वारा कोयले का उत्पादन

†642. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

श्री रामलेखा पानी :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :—

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीय ताप विद्युत निगम और केन्द्रीय खनन अनुसंधान संस्थान ने संयुक्त रूप से प्रयास करके एक नई तकनीक का विकास किया है जिसके माध्यम से देश में कोयले के उत्पादन में वृद्धि की जा सकती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और सरकार को इसके बारे में सबसे पहले जानकारी कब प्राप्त हुई;

(ग) क्या सरकार द्वारा इस तकनीक के प्रयोग के व्यवहारिक पहलुओं पर विचार किया गया है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं;

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने कोयले के उत्पादन में इस तकनीक का उपयोग करने का निर्णय लिया है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो यह तकनीक किन-किन स्थानों पर और कब उपयोग में लाई जाएगी ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, experiments have been conduc ted by Central Milling Research Institute (CMRI for utilisation of ash taken from Ramagunduam Super Thermal Power Station of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) as showing material in GDK-3 underground mine of Singareni Collierie Company Limited (SCCL). In order to establish this meth od rilling underground voids with power station ash, further experiments are required to be carried out by CMRI under different geo-mining conditions. Three more sites have been identified for establishing the techno-economic and other related parameters of showing of power house ash in underground mines.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उपसभापति जी, मेरा प्रश्न पांच भागों में बंटा हुआ था और मंत्री महोदय ने पांचों का जवाब "न" में दिया है । मैंने यह

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज द्वारा पूछा गया ।